

The President's Daily Brief

November 22, 1975

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~~Top Secret~~

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November 22, 1975

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PORUGAL

The all-military Revolutionary Council has laid the groundwork for a compromise solution to the government impasse.

At a meeting called to discuss the government's refusal to carry out its activities, the council:

--Criticized the government's action and instructed Prime Minister Azevedo to ensure the normal functioning of the government until a solution is found.

--Called for immediate talks with the political parties to find a common platform which could involve "remodeling" the government.

--Named Vasco Lourenco, a leader of the anti-Communist Melo Antunes group, to replace extreme leftist Otelo de Carvalho as commander of the Lisbon Military Region.

--Dissolved the special "military intervention force" which was set up to enforce the authority of the government.

The replacement of Carvalho--which President Costa Gomes apparently has postponed at least until Monday--would clearly be a victory for the anti-Communist ruling group. If Lourenco remains as commander of the Lisbon region, the country's four military regions will be headed by officers loyal to the government.

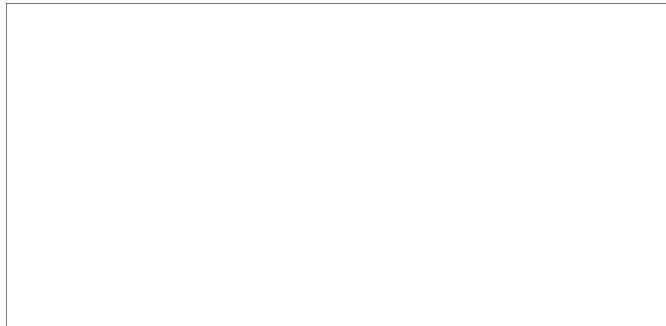
The council's other decisions seemed to indicate that the Antunes group--which has a majority on the council--has backed away from strong support of the cabinet. The cabinet is composed of Socialists, center-left Popular Democrats, anti-Communist military officers, and one Communist.

The council's criticism of the government's suspension of its activities is puzzling, since the Antunes group--with the Socialists--reportedly instigated the move.

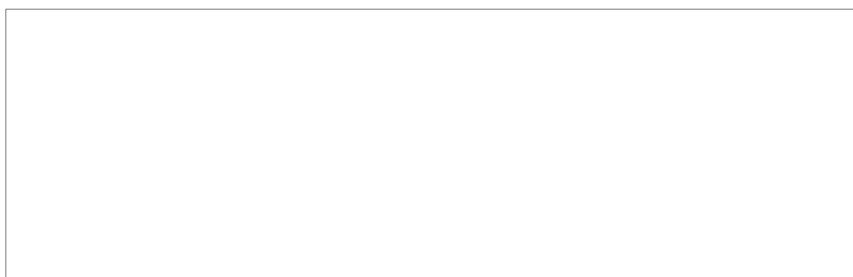
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PLO-SYRIA-EGYPT

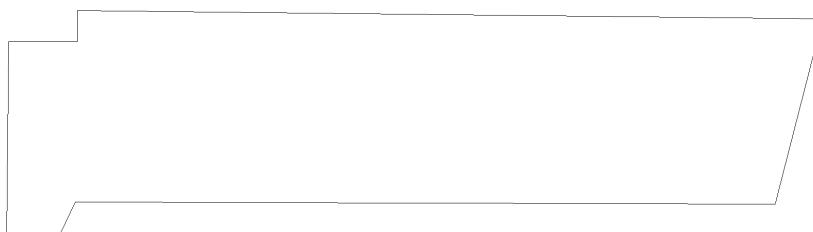
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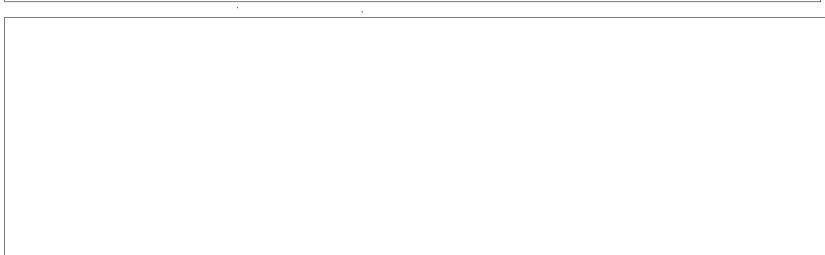
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LEBANON

Three days of fighting in the Beirut suburbs threatens to draw the large Christian and Muslim militias into sustained clashes. Renewed clashes of undetermined severity are also occurring in the Tripoli-Zagharta area of northern Lebanon.

The government's 300-man "shock force" created early in the week has begun patrolling Beirut. The force will be of little use in halting shooting in the suburbs, however, since it was designed primarily to apprehend snipers and stop firefights in the city center.

Leaders of the Christian militias doubt that the political negotiations will result in any compromises on important issues. Interior Minister Shamun's National Liberal Party has nearly despaired of making progress in private talks with the Palestinians.

Officials of Pierre Jumayyil's Phalanges Party are also increasingly pessimistic. They do not believe Lebanese leftists will negotiate seriously and are resolved not to give in to Muslim demands. The Phalangist militia--like the several Muslim and leftist groups--continues to rearm in preparation for possible new fighting.

Leftist politicians are apprehensive at Karami's recent moves to by-pass the national dialogue committee--where the left is dominant--in favor of negotiating reforms personally with President Franjiyah. Socialist leader Kamal Jumblatt, although continuing to support Karami as prime minister, held a press conference late this week at which he repeated his preference for working through the committee and reiterated his call for electoral reform.

French mediator Couve de Murville arrived in Beirut on Wednesday. He is engaged in a round of consultations with all major Lebanese and Palestinian political and religious leaders.

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SPAIN

Juan Carlos was sworn in and proclaimed King of Spain early today. He becomes Spain's first ruling monarch since his grandfather, Alfonso XIII, fled the country in 1931.

Franco's funeral will be held on Sunday. Another religious ceremony and palace reception in honor of the new King and Queen are planned for November 26.

Personally designated and groomed by Franco, the 37-year-old Juan Carlos in public maintained a studiously correct deference toward the general and Francoism. Juan Carlos was careful to give Franco, who until the very end could always have named someone else as successor, no excuse for displeasure.

Privately, however, Juan Carlos has over the past few years confided to leading Spanish reformers and visiting dignitaries from Western Europe and the US that he would like one day to liberalize Spanish institutions. He has made clear that he intends to be an active chief of state and to resist firmly any attempts to turn him into a figurehead.

Constitutional Power

The constitution suggests that the prime minister will be the most powerful man in the new government. Much, of course, will depend on the personalities involved. There is enough leeway in the law to allow a strong chief of state to exercise significant power.

Under the constitution, the chief of state:

--Commands the armed forces, although the King's command will probably be only symbolic.

--Presides over the cabinet.

--Approves and promulgates laws and provides for their execution.

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--Acts as final arbitrator in disputes between high government bodies like the cabinet, the legislature, and the judiciary.

--Dismisses prime ministers with the approval of the 17-man advisory Council of the Realm.

--Chooses a prime minister from a slate of three selected by the Council of the Realm.

These powers are, however, restricted by a requirement that all official acts of the chief of state be approved by one of four persons: the prime minister, the president of the Parliament, the president of the Council of the Realm, or the minister whose office is involved in the decision.

Personal Goals

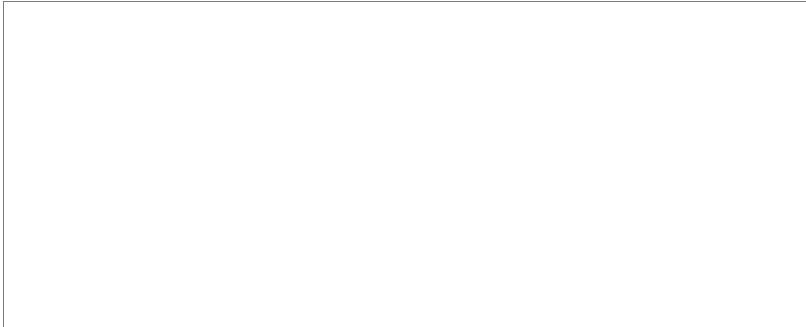
Juan Carlos has said he recognizes that Spain needs a more representative government, and he knows it is urgent for him to demonstrate his own support for a more liberal system. He believes that if the monarchy is to work in post-Franco Spain, he must show it is an effective agent of social change and political stability.

Juan Carlos has pointed out, however, that this cannot be done overnight and that he must take into account what would be acceptable to the military, which will be his main support. He has cultivated his relations with the military.

There is little enthusiasm in Spain for Juan Carlos or the monarchy, but there is a widespread disposition to support him for lack of an alternative. If he succeeds in preserving order while gradually opening up the political process, he will gain more acceptance. The task will be difficult and we are far from certain that he has the ability to deal with it.

Leaders of the leftist opposition have intimated that they are disposed to give the new King a period of grace. Any such grace period is likely to be short, and if change does not come quickly, the left is likely to turn against him.

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A Good Reputation

Though quiet-mannered and rather diffident in public, in private he has what Spaniards call "the Bourbon charm"--informal, friendly, and bluff. He is articulate, inquisitive, and well-informed.

Juan Carlos is physically vigorous and an accomplished athlete. A competent linguist, he speaks English, Portuguese, French, and Italian, in addition to his native Spanish.

He has been married since 1962 to Princess Sophia of Greece, the elder daughter of the late King Paul and Queen Frederika and the sister of deposed King Constantine II.

Since his marriage, Juan Carlos seems to have gained confidence in himself. Sophia has provided emotional support and seems [redacted] to be a positive influence. [redacted]

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Juan Carlos and Sophia have a son and two daughters. The son will be next in line for the crown.

ANGOLA

Forces of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola reportedly have advanced to within 65 miles of Luso, a key town astride the Benguela railroad that was captured by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola in September.

The attacking force, supported by armored cars, moved out toward Luso several days ago from Henrique de Carvalho, the easternmost stronghold of the Popular Movement. The offensive presumably is intended to ease pressure on the Movement's forces in central Angola where the National Front has recently scored important gains.

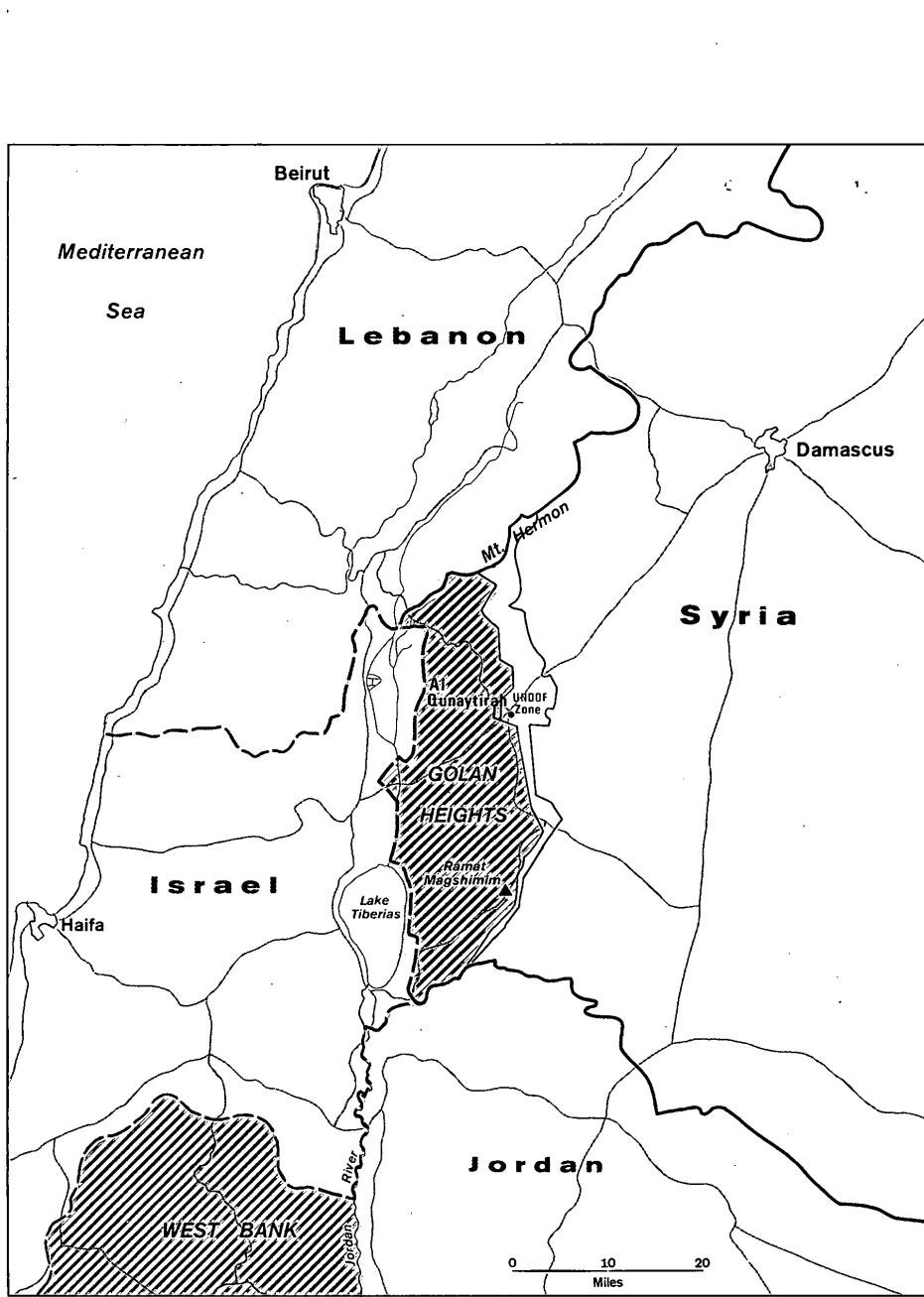
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Nigerian leaders [redacted] feel they can no longer ignore the support South Africa is giving the National Union. They also regard the Front as little more than a puppet of Zairian President Mobutu, who they believe wants to annex Cabinda. Lagos' distrust of Mobutu derives partly from Zairian-Nigerian competition for leadership of [redacted] Africa.

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NOTES

Israel is likely to interpret the fedayeen attack on an Israeli settlement Thursday in the southern Golan Heights as part of Syria's effort to increase tension as the expiration date of the UN forces' mandate approaches.

The terrorists, who said they were from a Syrian-based unit of Yasir Arafat's Fatah, got back to Syria after killing three Israelis and wounding another. Israeli retaliation is more likely to be in Lebanon than in Syria. The Israelis will tighten security measures on the Golan, however, and initiate more aggressive patrolling of the disengagement line. Such activities could increase the risk of clashes with Syrian troops along the UN buffer zone.

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Criticism of the US by Indian Prime Minister Gandhi and other top officials, which had quieted for some time, resumed in mid-November.

In remarks directed primarily at the US, Gandhi spoke out several times last week against "some countries" which, she said, have complained about setbacks to democracy in India while working in other countries to overthrow democratic governments and support authoritarianism. Foreign Minister Chavan has warned of dangers posed by "imperialists and their agents." A leftist newspaper that supports Gandhi's Congress Party last week accused the US ambassador in Dacca of playing a "significant role" in the coups there.

The US embassy in New Delhi states that some of the reasons for the renewed criticism could be suspicion that the US was involved in recent events in Bangladesh--or the need to claim foreign involvement to justify India's possible intervention sometime in the future; unhappiness over American criticism of Gandhi's domestic policy; and the need of some kind of jolt to reinvigorate domestic support for the state of emergency.

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Zairian President Mobutu reportedly foresees a resumption in diplomatic relations with Israel sometime after the first of the year.

Mobutu broke relations with Israel in October 1973, just two days before the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war. Since then he has become disillusioned with the failure of the Arab states to offer Zaire and other African countries any significant financial assistance, particularly concessions in oil prices, in return for African support. The Central African Republic reportedly also plans to renew diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv sometime in the coming months.

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